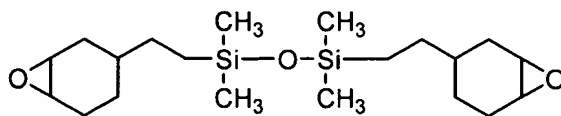


Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

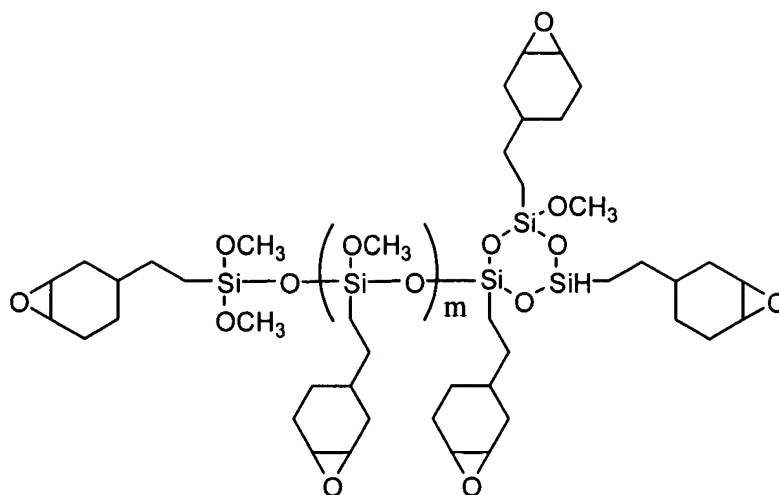
[0013] The coating compositions may be clear or may contain fillers and/or pigments. Accordingly, in one aspect, the present invention is a clear coating composition comprising from about 90 to about 100 parts by weight of a base resin; from 0 to about 2 parts by weight of an adhesion promoter and from about 3 to about 8 parts by weight of a cationic polymerization initiator. The base resin comprises:

(A) from about 30 to about 50 parts by weight of a cycloaliphatic epoxy functional siloxane monomer having structure (IA)



(IA)

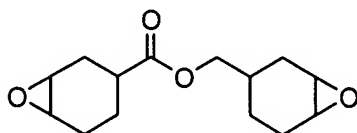
(B) from about 5 to about 30 parts by weight of a cycloaliphatic epoxy functional siloxane oligomer having structure (IB)



(IB)

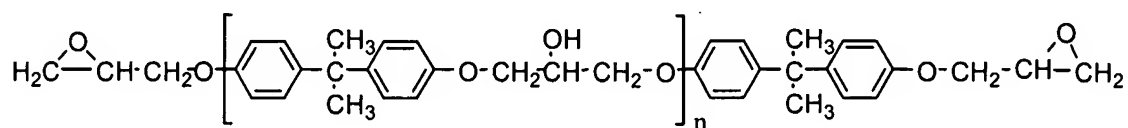
wherein m is an integer having a value from 5 to 50;

(C) from about 20 to about 50 parts by weight of at least one non-silicon-containing epoxy resin selected from the group consisting of (i) epoxidized vegetable oils, (ii) epoxidized vegetable oil esters, and (iii) 3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl-3',4'-epoxycyclohexane carboxylate having structure (IIA)



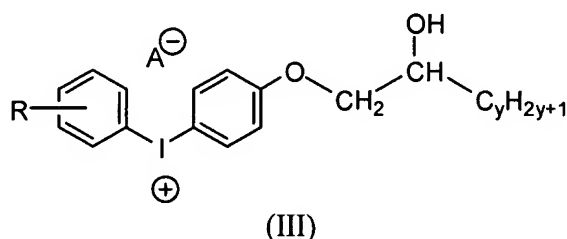
(IIA)

(D) from 0 to about 30 parts by weight of one or more flexibilizers selected from the group of (i) epoxides based on a diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A having structure (IIB)



(IIB)

wherein the average value of n is 0 or about 0.07, 0.14, 2.3 or 4.8; (ii) epoxidized alpha olefins; (iii) limonene oxides; (iv) thermoplastic acrylic resins; (v) ~~elastomers~~ elastomers; (vi) phenoxy resins; (vii) polyol flexibilizers; and (viii) allyl ethers. The cationic polymerization initiator comprises at least one diaryliodonium salt, wherein each diaryliodonium salt is present in a corresponding separate catalyst solution comprising from about 40 to about 80 wt. % of a carrier medium and from about 20 to about 60 wt. % of the diaryliodonium salt or salts. Each diaryliodonium salt has structure (III)



wherein R is methyl or hydrogen; y is 0 or an integer from 1 to 25; and A⁻ is a non-nucleophilic anion selected from the group consisting of [BF₄]⁻, [PF₆]⁻, [AsF₆]⁻, [SbF₆]⁻, [B(C₆F₅)₄]⁻, and [Ga(C₆F₅)₄]⁻.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] In another aspect, the present invention is a coating composition comprising from about 35 to about 62 parts by weight of the aforementioned base resin; from about 32 to about 65 parts by weight of one or more components selected from the group consisting of fillers, pigments, diluents, tougheners, flow control agents, and antifoaming agents; from 0 to about 1 part by weight of an adhesion promoter and from about 2 to about 5 parts by weight of a cationic polymerization initiator, as previously described. Formulations containing fillers and/or pigments, as well as any of the other aforementioned components, are useful as primers or topcoats.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Also included in the base resin of the present coating formulations are from about 20 to about 50 parts by weight of one or more non-silicon-containing epoxy resins. Suitable non-silicon-containing epoxy resins include epoxidized vegetable oils and epoxidized vegetable oil esters, such as VIKOFLEX® 9010, which is a methyl epoxy linseedate available from Atofina Chemicals. Inc. Another suitable non-silicon containing epoxy resin is a cycloaliphatic epoxy, such as 3,4-epoxycyclohexylmethyl-3',4'-epoxycyclohexane carboxylate (EECH), also known as 7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]hept-3-ylmethyl 7-oxabicyclo[4.1.0]heptane-3-carboxylate). EECH has structure (IIA) and is commercially available from Union Carbide as ERL 4221. Of these, epoxidized vegetable oil esters are generally preferred.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Optionally, the base resin may include up to about 30 parts by weight of one or more flexibilizers, which provide flexibility to the compositions. Suitable flexibilizers include epoxides having structure (IIB) above, which are based on a diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A. Examples include ARALDITE® 6084 and ARALDITE® 6097, which are available from Ciba Geigy in solid form. VIKOLOX® 14, which is a C-14 epoxidized alpha olefin available from Elf Atochem, is another suitable flexibilizer. Polyol flexibilizers, such as caprolactan triol, which is available from Solvay Interlox, Inc. as CAPA® 4101 (previously sold as CAPA® 316) are also suitable. CAPA® 4101 has the chemical name 2-oxepanone and is a polymer of 2-2-bis(hydroxymethyl)-1, 3-propanediol having the chemical formula (C₆H₁₀O₂ C₅H₁₂O₄). Additional useful flexibilizers include thermoplastic acrylic resins, such as DEGALAN® 64/12 and

DEGALAN® P24, which are available from Rohm, limonene oxides, such as limonene dioxide available from Elf Atochem; ~~elastomers~~ elastomers; and phenoxy resins. Allyl ethers are also useful flexibilizers, and examples include vinyl ethers and propenyl ethers available from ISP, BASF, etc. Other suitable flexibilizers would be obvious to those of skill, and the invention is not limited to the flexibilizers described herein.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

[0063] Primer formulations containing Base Resin (IV) from Example 16 and the following other components were prepared and tested:

Formulation	17A	17B	17C
Component	Parts by Weight		
Base Resin (III) Base Resin (IV)	48	48	48
Byk 307	0.4	0.4	0.4
Silwet L-7604	0.4	0.4	0.4
Zeospheres G-400	46	46	46
Silane A-187	1	1	1
Byk 501	0.2	0.2	0.2
PC-2506 (40%)	2	1	
PC-2508 (40%)	2	3	4

Formulation	17A									
Substrate	R36 1	R36 1	AL 36	AL 36	Clean	Clean	Chrome	Chrome	Non Chrome	Non Chrome
E-Beam Cured										
Voltage (Kv)	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Dose (Mrad)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Postbaked 125 °C	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

15 min										
Appearance										
Fish eye	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Cure	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry	Dry
Adhesion Test (ASTM D3359 Cross Hatch)										
After 24hrs	4	1	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
1T Bend Test (ASTM D 522-88)										
After 24hrs	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Formulation	17B				17C			
Substrate	R36 1	R36 1	AL 36	AL 36	R36 1	R36 1	AL 36	AL 36
E-Beam Cured								
Voltage (Kv)	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Dose (Mrad)	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Postbaked 125 °C 15 min	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Appearance								
Fish eye	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Cure	Very Very Slight Drag	Dry	Very Very Slight Drag	Dry	Dry	Very Slight Drag	Dry	Very Slight Drag
Adhesion Test (ASTM D3359 Cross Hatch)								
After 24hrs	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
OT Bend Test (ASTM D 522-88)								
After 24hrs	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass